



December 2, 2005

(Available online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)

After The Special Election: What Next?

Statewide, and especially on the Central Coast, an informed electorate spoke forcefully November 8 with a strong rejection of the Governor's initiatives. Not merely a partisan ballot box battle, the outcome instead was a defeat of poorly thought-out measures. The question now is whether the message sent by voters can be translated into affirmative proposals to address the state's problems.

Democratic legislators in Sacramento will soon make proposals to carry into the next legislative session. Likely among them will be another push for the legislation recently vetoed by the Governor for both a minimum wage increase and extending health insurance to all California kids under the age of eighteen. And there will be proposals to continue bond support for the environment and housing, and address our aging infrastructure—crumbling levees, over-burdened water system, insufficient transportation structure, etc.

Following the Special Election, there is also a good opportunity for genuine reform in campaign finance and the creation of a redistricting process that is not a power grab by one party over the other. The so-called “California Clean Money Campaign” now stands a better chance of becoming a reality. And just days after the special election, discussions about a new redistricting process are already underway in Sacramento. One plan calls for the creation of a bi-partisan commission with members appointed by legislative leaders as well as the governor.

Also, the overwhelming rejection by voters of the Governor's budget and education financing measure (Proposition 76) should be interpreted as strong voter support for education in California—we must restore full state support for the education funding guarantee known as Proposition 98.

As much as it was a rejection of the Governor's initiatives, the Special Election also presented an important opportunity for California. In the weeks and months ahead, we must stay active as a community and use this opportunity to make a real difference for education, the environment and working people here and across the state.

John in the District

12/5 Santa Clara County Environmental Luncheon, Morgan Hill

12/12 Branciforte Middle School Visit, Santa Cruz

12/12 Santa Cruz County Bar Association Meeting

12/13 Action Council of Monterey County Obesity Conference

12/15 Pacific School District Board Meeting, Davenport

Santa Cruz County Office

701 Ocean Street, 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-425-1503 (tel)
831-425-2570 (fax)

Monterey/Santa Clara County Office

99 Pacific Street, 555D
Monterey, CA 93940

Recent Laird Interviews on KUSP's "Talk of the Bay"

11/30/05—Topic: Rosa Parks ([listen now](#))

11/23/05—Topic: The legislative year ahead; repairing to CA's levees ([listen now](#))

11/16/05—Topic: Working with the Governor; investing in CA's future ([listen now](#))

(Listen most Wednesdays, 10-11am on "Talk of the Bay," 88.9 FM or www.kusp.org)

Visit John's Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>

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831-649-2832 (tel)
831-649-2935 (fax)
408-782-0647 (Santa
Clara County Direct Line)

Capitol Office

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA
94249-0027
916-319-2027 (tel)
916-319-2127 (fax)